yield. Undistinguished adultery was born to blush unseen, only appearing in minute type in *The Times* Law Reports, bringing profit to lawyers, tedium to judges; productive of hotel bills, and evidence by chambermaids and lodging-house keepers, mechanically spoken after holding up a Bible, seldom, if ever, read, but worn from being often grasped and sometimes kissed. Adultery was the essential ingredient in these proceedings—one part of adultery to so many parts of non-adulterous ecstasy, anguish, pleasurable or tedious or indifferent companionship; sometimes only adultery, neat.

Thus the Law paid its small tribute to an ancient conception of marriage, contracted for better or for worse, till death us do part, and valid until swept aside in favour of a more up-to-date attitude. Marriage had long since become the Marriage Question (He has me, he has me not...), towards the elucidation of which many had contributed from many different standpoints; among others, M. Blum, whose contribution, forty years old, was resurrected and admired when he became French Prime Minister, by that time more grandfatherly than husbandly himself. "What M. Blum had seen clearly long before any possibility of a *Front Populaire* existed to find its chosen leader in him, the Law persisted in ignoring, and continued to demand its pound of adultery, duly measured and cut away nearest the heart.

This Mr. Herbert determinedly set himself to change, and partially succeeded in changing. The legislation he sponsored allowed divorce on grounds of desertion, cruelty and lunacy, though to make it palatable to ecclesiastical opinion he was forced to admit a provision whereby a couple

joined in holy matrimony could not contract out, even with adultery, until a stated period of time had elapsed—for better or for worse, until five years us do part. Mr. Herbert's pertinacity in getting through all its stages a Private Member's Bill dealing with so delicate and controversial a subject, was much admired; and though his Bill was criticised by less patient reformers for not going far enough, it was considered as marking an important stage in the realisation of the Life Beautiful.